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E

BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H ,

For the Year 1925.

BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1925.



Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health this Report is in some respects more comprehensive than has heretofore been customary, for it includes particulars of Public Health improvements which have been effected during the past five years. It also includes mortality and sickness statistics for that period.

As this is but one of fifteen Reports which I am submitting to as many Authorities its size and scope are necessarily more curtailed than would be the case were I merely acting for a single District.

The subjects dealt with are systematized under the following six headings:-

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Housing.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

I. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 29,369

Population Census, 1921 17,072

" 1925 (estimated for Birth Rate)... 18,830

" 1925 (" " Death Rate)... 18,630

Physical Features & General Character of the Area.

The District, which lies to the South and West of the City of Leicester, covers an area of forty-six square miles

consisting chiefly of undulating grass land. It is drained by the river Soar and its affluents. The geological formation is largely Keuper with outcrops of Greenstone which is quarried at Croft, Huncote and Enderby.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Number of families or separate occupiers of houses (1921) | 3,897 |
| Rateable Value | £110,285 |
| Assessable " | £ 83,913 |

Social Conditions.

Although the District as a whole is chiefly agricultural, most of the land being grazed, there is in addition to the quarrying industry a large number of Boot & Shoe and Hosiery Factories and Workshops in the larger villages. The parish of Kirby Muxloe is essentially residential.

Vital Statistics.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| Births, legitimate. | M. 157. | F. 151. | <u>Total</u> - | 308 |
| " illegitimate | " <u>9</u> | " <u>4</u> | " - | <u>13</u> |
| <u>Total:-</u> | " <u>166</u> | " <u>155</u> | " | <u>321</u> |
| Birth Rate | | | | 17.0 |
| " " (1921 - 1925)..... | | | | 17.9 |
| " " for England & Wales (1925) | | | | 18.3 |
| Deaths | M. 104. | F. 105. | <u>Total</u> - | 209 |
| Death Rate..... | | | | 9.7 |
| " " (1921 - 1925)..... | | | | 8.8 |
| " " for England & Wales (1925) | | | | 12.2 |

Here as in most Rural Districts the age and sex distribution of the population is less favourable to a low death-rate than is that of the country as a whole. The death-rates have accordingly been standardized so as to allow for this inequality. The effect of this correction is to materially reduce the rates as heretofore calculated.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age..... 21 (1 being illegitimate)

| | |
|--|----|
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Births..... | 65 |
| " " " (1921 - 1925)..... | 60 |
| " " " for Eng. & Wales 1925.... | 75 |

For the period of five years 4.2 per cent of the births were illegitimate.

Causes of Death in 1925.

Civilians only.

| <u>Causes of Death</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| <u>All Causes</u> | <u>104</u> | <u>105.</u> |
| Scarlet Fever..... | - | 1 |
| Whooping Cough..... | - | 2 |
| Influenza | 8 | 6 |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system. | 7 | 11 |
| Other tuberculous diseases..... | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer, malignant disease..... | 9 | 10 |
| Rheumatic Fever..... | 1 | 1 |
| Diabetes..... | 2 | - |
| Cerebral haemorrhage, etc..... | 8 | 7 |
| Heart disease..... | 18 | 14 |
| Arterio sclerosis | 2 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 9 | 5 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 3 | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases..... | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum..... | - | 1 |
| Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 yrs.)..... | - | 1 |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis..... | 1 | - |
| Acute and chronic Nephritis..... | 1 | 7 |
| Puerperal Sepsis..... | - | 1 |
| Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition | - | 3 |
| Congenital debility & malformation) premature birth.) | 6 | 4 |
| Suicide..... | 1 | - |
| Other deaths from violence..... | 2 | 1 |
| Other defined diseases..... | 23 | 22 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown..... | - | - |

II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

Tuberculosis, Maternity & Children's Hospital accommodation are controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealt with comprehensively in the County Report.

Fever. There are 8 Isolation Hospitals with a total of 85 beds, controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals' Committee. Patients are sent to such hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering, the majority from this District being sent to the hospital at Blaby.

Small Pox. There are two hospitals provided for the County as a whole.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases. - Motor ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For Non-infectious Cases & Accidents. - None under the District Council. The Leicester Royal Infirmary & other voluntary organizations provide the necessary facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. All under the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for this and fourteen other Districts in four counties. The Combined Districts cover 500 sq. miles and have a population of about 120,000. All travelling expenses are defrayed by the Medical Officer of Health. No office or clerical staff is provided.

The Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor devotes the whole of his time to his official duties. He also defrays his motoring expenses. There is an Exchequer grant ^{in respect} of each of the above appointments.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District. There are District Nurses in the larger parishes.

Midwives.

The supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Council.

Chemical Work.

Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyses samples of water and occasionally of sewage effluents. Seventeen samples were analysed during 1925.

Legislation in Force.

Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings were adopted for the whole District in 1925, and Bye-laws for regulating and promoting cleanliness in tents vans and sheds have just been adopted.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Since 1920 the Leicester City supply, which had already been laid on to the parishes of Enderby, Glenfield, Glen Parva, Kirby Muxloe and New Parks and to part of Blaby and Countesthorpe, has been extended in the latter parishes. It has also been laid on to Glenfield Frith, Leicester Forest East, Narborough and Whetstone and several other extensions have also been completed.

The outstanding requirements regarding water supply are:-

- (1) Extension of City mains through Littlethorpe and Cosby. Many of the wells in this area are contaminated and the public supply is moreover required for a number of factories.
- (2) Extension of City mains to Huncote, a village which continues to derive its supply from more or less polluted wells.

(3) Extension to Peatling Road, Countesthorpe.

(4) Connection between Lutterworth Road, Blaby, and Blaby Rd., Whetstone, to supply new houses.

(5) Connection between Blaby Rd., and Column Lane, Glen Parva.

Rivers and Streams:-

Direct pollution of the brook is taking place in the villages of Countesthorpe, Croft, Huncote and Kilby in each of which the sewage is untreated. Countesthorpe is now being dealt with. In most of the larger villages the sewage is filtered or irrigated and pollution where it exists is for the most part slight or not noticeable. In Kirby Muxloe, where the sewage is tanked and irrigated, the land is unable to cope with a large quantity and a very poor effluent is being obtained. In view of contemplated sewerage extensions the conditions have within the past few months been investigated at a Ministry of Health enquiry. At the Blaby sewage Works the provision of additional percolating filters is necessary.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

There are good sewers in most of the larger villages and in the remainder they are passable with the notable exception of Croft. In this parish not only are the sewers unsatisfactory, but they discharge direct to the brook.

Building developments in a number of parishes are calling for extension of sewers and for the provision in some instances of additional disposal plant. A great deal of this work is now in hand.

A Ministry of Health enquiry, to which I have already alluded, has just been held at Kirby Muxloe and it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to expedite the completion of sewers for a number of properties at present draining

to cess-pits. At that enquiry I directed attention to the necessity for sewerage the adjoining parish of Leicester Forest East and for dealing comprehensively, both as to sewerage and sewage disposal, with the two parishes. The adjoining portion of Braunston parish should also be dealt with.

An area calling for special attention and one which has been a constant source of trouble is the parish of Glenfield Frith where a number of temporary and semi-permanent dwellings have been erected, some draining to cess-pools and others undrained. This parish, part of which is known as the Dominion Estate, formed the subject of a Ministry of Health Enquiry last year, owing chiefly to its being unprovided with roads. A new and most necessary road is now contemplated and I sincerely trust that its completion will be expedited. Sooner or later this area will have to be sewerage and provided throughout with roads. In this vicinity are a number of Vans whose dirty and untidy condition and surroundings have necessitated the adoption of Bye-laws.

During 1925, 83 drains, drain-traps etc. were inspected and 49 nuisances were as a consequence abated. Two hundred and seventy-nine cesspools were cleansed, and in some instances repaired. Cesspools are a costly and insanitary device for dealing with the drainage of new houses which often within a few years have to be connected with a sewer. Rural Districts should be brought into line with Urban, where the sewerage precedes development. If this were done much expense and a great deal of nuisance would be averted. In those instances where a cesspool is put in pending the early advent of a sewer, it should be so placed as to permit of the subsequent connection being completed at a minimum cost. To ignore considerations of this kind is to encourage unnecessary waste.

Closet Accommodation:-

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Approx. No. in District | (1) Privies | 43 |
| | (2) Pail closets | 4149 |
| | (3) Water closets | 1215. |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--------|
| Privies (middens) | No. of new provided | nil |
| | No. repaired | nil |
| | No. converted to (a) pails (b) W.C's | 1 8 |
| Pails or earth closets | No. of new provided | 28 |
| | No. converted to W.C's | 39 |
| Water closets | No. of new provided (including new houses) | 219 |

The Ministry requests that this Report should indicate whether conversion of privies to pail-closets or water-closets is proceeding on any definite policy with a view to the ultimate abolition of insanitary types of privy accommodation. In common with all sanitarians with whose opinion we are acquainted I take the view that all privy-pits are insanitary. They are an anachronism and should be abolished in all villages where public scavenging is available. I am accordingly glad to be able to report some steady progress in this work during the past 5 years, the actual record being as follows:-

| | 1921 | /22 | /23 | /24 | /25 | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Privies converted to pail-closets | 40 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 1 | 82 |
| " " " W.C's | 20 | 6 | 16 | 23 | 8 | 73 |
| Pail-closets converted to W.C's | 4 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 39 | 80 |

During the 5 years over 50% of the privies in the District have been eliminated.

Scavenging:-

The larger villages are now systematically scavenged. For many years I have advocated that all villages with over 40 inhabited houses should be provided with systematic scavenging of night-soil and refuse: for I regard this as a condition precedent to the effective abolition of insanitary pits without the subsequent likelihood of water pollution through the emptying of pails near wells.

During 1925, 39 ashpits were replaced by portable ashbins and 214 new ashbins were provided. The conversion of ashpits to movable receptacles with suitable covers is important and should proceed pari passu with the provision of pail-closets. Fixed receptacles of any kind are undesirable. They foster

flies and contaminate subsoil. Fixed receptacles should be statutorily abolished in all areas where scavenging is available, as I submit they should be in all villages with over 40 inhabited houses.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area 1925.

| | |
|---|------|
| Total number of complaints received during the year | 61 |
| (chiefly in respect of cesspools) | |
| " " " inspections made for all purposes | 2556 |
| " " " notices served - 71. Informal - 42. | |
| Statutory - 29. | |
| " " " summonses issued | nil |

Insanitary Houses (Public Health Act, 1875)

No. of houses inspected - 1417. No. cleansed - 37

Overcrowding:-

No. of houses inspected - 21. Nuisances abated - 6

Offensive accumulations:-

No. inspected - 16. " " - 16

Infectious Diseases:-

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| Houses | No. inspected | 219 |
| | No. of inspections | 346 |
| No. disinfected | (a) Houses | 97 |
| | (b) Schoolrooms | 5 |

A steam disinfecter is available.

Other details of Sanitary Inspection are included under the various headings.

Smoke Abatement:- Four nuisances from black smoke were abated during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District and there are no Canal Boats. No Offensive Trades are established in the District.

Schools:- For many years I have made systematic and detailed reports on all, or nearly all, the Public Elementary Schools in the Combined Districts. There are about 160 such schools

and year by year great improvements, chiefly in cleanliness ventilation and general sanitation, have accrued in many of them. I now inspect them only as required. Speaking generally the schools in the Blaby District are by no means below the average for country schools and some of them are excellent. The water is laid on in those parishes where it is available, the schools at Blaby being supplied last year. In response to our request the offices and drainage of these schools were modernized last year: prior to that they had been very insanitary.

IV. HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions:-

Speaking generally the housing conditions are rather above than below what I conceive to be the average for Rural Districts. In most of the parishes and especially in those adjoining Leicester the population has for many years been increasing. When the Census was taken 50 out of 3,897 families (i.e. about $1\frac{1}{4}\%$) were living under accentuated conditions of overcrowding there being over 2 adults (or 4 children) per room in their houses. This is considerably below the percentage for Rural Districts in the County as a whole. In 1925 21 overcrowded houses were inspected but it was found possible to ameliorate only six of these cases.

During the past five years building development has been rapid in parishes near Leicester, and in most of the other parishes it appears to have kept pace with, or gained on, a relatively small increase in population. The total number of houses completed each year is as follows:-

| | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| By Local Authority | 50 | 96 | - | - | - | 146 |
| State assisted | - | - | 43 | 177 | 380 | 600 |
| Other houses | 27 | 43 | 41 | 28 | 102 | 241 |
| Total:- | 77 | 139 | 84 | 205 | 482 | 987 |

Nearly a thousand houses in five years; but most of these are in developments adjoining Leicester, among which the Leicester Corporation's extensive housing schemes must be increasingly included. The areas on which these schemes are proposed or are developing are drained to the City sewers and are so integrally attached to Leicester that they will doubtless be included in the next extension of its boundary.

The proportion of houses in need of "re-conditioning" is not so high as is the case in most of the Rural Districts with which I have to deal, the advantages of this too long deferred proposal being on the whole much more manifest in agricultural than in industrial parishes. Perhaps the most pressing need in this, as in many Rural Districts, is for small houses or cottages. Those of a non-parlour type and three or even two bedrooms. I believe that two bedroom non-parlour houses would supply a real need at a price far below the average spent on Council houses.

1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- (a) Total 482
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924.
 - (1) By the Local Authority..... nil
 - (2) By other bodies or persons..... 380

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----|
| <u>Inspection.</u> | (1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 311 |
| | (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected & recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 | 98 |
| | (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 14 |
| | (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 6 |

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their officers. 18

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925. nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 74

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice - (a) by owners. 67
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners, nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders. 1

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. nil

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit. 1

(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. nil

(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. nil

V. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. The Sanitary Inspector submits the following particulars for the year:-

Retail Purveyors. (a) Register - No. on. 46
(b) Premises - Total No. of inspections. 146

No. of contraventions found 47

No. found to require (1) Cleansing 14

(2) Structural or sanitary improvements. 33

Wholesale Traders (a) Register - No. on 90

and Producers. (b) Premises - No. of inspections

(1) Total 39

(2) During milking time 21

No. of contraventions found 17

No. found to require (1) Cleansing 6

(2) Structural or san. imprs. 11

Total number of milch cows in the District - 1328.

This is not one of the Districts in which advantage was taken of the facilities offered by the County Council for the bacteriological examination of samples. The taking of samples is now, however, being commenced and I would urge that they be submitted frequently, for in every District where we have had recourse to this measure a vast improvement in the cleanliness of milk has resulted. This is all to the advantage not only of the consumer but of the producer or retailer. Many of the latter are now realising that clean milk will keep sweet in warm weather for quite a long time. The requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, call for assiduous supervision as to cleanliness in every stage of production and distribution. I have had occasion to visit one farm from which dirty milk was sent to Leicester.

The Council's Veterinary Inspector, ~~Mr. Wm. L. Gascoyne,~~
~~M.R.C.V.S.~~ has systematically inspected all the milch cows in the District.

Meat:-

There are 19 Slaughter Houses in the District. In 1920 there were 16 and at the beginning of 1925 there were 19. Forty-nine inspections were made during the year, 46 being at time of slaughter. There is no difficulty in carrying out the order with regard to these inspections. The slaughter-houses are on the whole very well kept, cleansing and limewashing being ordered where necessary.

One tuberculous carcase was surrendered and was destroyed at the Leicester City Destructor.

There were 37 inspections of meat stalls or shops nine contraventions being reported.

Other Foods:-

Pakehouses, of which there are 21 on the register, are regularly inspected and are very well kept. Three nuisances were abated.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1925 were as follows:-

| Parish. | Small Pox. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphth- eria. | Enteric Fever. | Pneumonia | Erysip- elas. |
|---------------|------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Blaby | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Countesthorpe | - | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Cosby | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Croft | 6 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Enderby | - | 20 | 2 | - | - | 4 |
| Glenfield | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Glen Parva | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Huncote | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Kilby | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Kirby Frith | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Kirby Muxloe | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Littlethorpe | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lubbesthorpe | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Narborough | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| New Parks | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Thurlaston | - | - | 4 | - | 1 | - |
| Whetstone | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Totals:- | 6 | 45 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 13 |

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified at Thurlaston.

The Small Pox cases occurred in two houses in Croft in April. The first of these patients contracted the disease at Nuneaton and was initially assumed to be suffering from Chicken Pox. All 6 cases were removed to hospital and the more immediate Contacts were promptly vaccinated.

42 cases of Scarlet Fever, 8 of Diphtheria and 1 of Enteric Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals. One case of Scarlet Fever proved fatal.

In addition to the above the following cases of Tuberculosis were notified:-

| Parish. | Respiratory. | Other. |
|--------------------|--------------|--------|
| Blaby | 3 | 1 |
| Cosby | 3 | - |
| Countesthorpe..... | 1 | 1 |
| Croft..... | 1 | - |
| Enderby | 4 | 1 |
| Glenfield | 3 | - |
| Kilby | 2 | - |
| Kirby Muxloe..... | 1 | - |
| Littlethorpe..... | 1 | - |
| Narborough | 1 | - |
| Whetstone..... | 7 | 1 |
| Totals:- | 27 | 4 |

The Tuberculosis cases and deaths are classified as follows:-

| Age-Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|----|--------------|----|-------------|----|--------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Other forms. | | Respiratory | | Other forms. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year..... | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 1 and under 5 yrs.. | - | - | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| 5 " " 10 " | - | - | 1 | - | | | | |
| 10 " " 15 " | 1 | - | - | - | | | | 1 |
| 15 " " 20 " | - | 5 | - | - | | 2 | | |
| 20 " " 25 " | 2 | 3 | - | - | | 3 | | |
| 25 " " 35 " | 9 | 4 | - | - | 4 | 3 | | |
| 35 " " 45 " | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | | | |
| 45 " " 55 " | - | 1 | - | - | | 2 | | |
| 55 " " 65 " | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 65 & upwards | - | - | - | - | | - | - | - |
| Totals:- | 14 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 3 |

Six of the fatal cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis occurring in the District had not been previously notified.

The notifications of Infectious Diseases received during each of the past five years were as follows:-

| Disease | 1921 | /22 | /23 | /24 | /25 | Total | Admitted to Hos. | Deaths. |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------------------|---------|
| Small Pox | 2 | - | - | - | 6 | 8 | 8 | - |
| Diphtheria | 33 | 40 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 111 | 80 | 8 |
| Scarlet Fever | 45 | 10 | 8 | 27 | 45 | 135 | 100 | 3 |
| Enteric " | 8 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 23 | - | 38 |
| Puerperal Fever | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 39 | - | - |
| Ophthalmia) Neonatorum) | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Respiratory) Tuberculosis) | 13 | 21 | 24 | 16 | 27 | 101 | (approx.) 26 | 73 |
| Other forms of) Tuberculosis) | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 25 | - | 16 |

For the 5 years under review the Attack Rate (i.e. the average annual number of cases per 1000 of the population) from Diphtheria is 0.89 and the Attack Rate from Scarlet Fever is 1.11. The corresponding rates for Eng. & Wales are 1.29 and 2.65. The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis is 0.81 per 1000, a

figure which approximates to the rate for the country as a whole which is about 0.88 and substantially tallies with that of the County. I record an average of 3 deaths per annum from other forms of Tuberculosis. There can be no doubt whatever that the systematic veterinary inspection of cattle combined with the measures which we are now advocating in order to improve the purity of milk will continue to play an integral part in reducing the incidence of surgical Tuberculosis especially in young children.

In connection with the diagnosis and supervision of Consumption it should be noted that during 1925 39 examinations of sputa for tubercle bacilli were made at the County Laboratory. The total number of examinations made at this laboratory during the year was 3,561 of which the following were for this District:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Sputa for tubercle bacilli..... | 39 |
| Throat swabs for diphtheria..... | 8 |
| Sewage and Water analyses..... | 8 |
| Hairs for Ringworm..... | 15 |
| (collected by School Nurses) | |
| Differential blood counts..... | <u>3</u> |
| Total:- | <u>73</u> |

The scientific investigations conducted in this laboratory are not only simplifying the prevention of infectious disease but are enabling us to exercise a degree of efficiency in its administrative control which, whatever its shortcomings, would be otherwise unattainable.

Factories & Workshops:-

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----|
| Workshops | No. on the Register (including Bakehouses) | 141 |
| | No. of nuisances abated | 16 |
| Bakehouses | No. on the register | 21 |
| | No. of nuisances abated | 3 |
| Homework | No. of outworkers | 311 |
| Legal Proceedings. - Nil. | | |

No instances of outwork on unsuitable premises have come under observation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Kirby Muxloe,
Nr. Leicester.
July 21st, 1926.

J. E. O'CONNOR,
Medical Officer of Health.

